

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heater assembly comprising, in combination:
first and second flexible layers;
at least one flexible electric heating element positioned between the first and second flexible layers and forming first and second heating zones; and
wherein the at least one flexible electric heating element provides different watt densities in the first and second heating zones so that heat is non-uniformly produced by the heating zones.
2. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one electric heating element is an electrical resistance heating element.
3. The heater assembly according to claim 2, wherein the electrical resistance heating element comprises bundled resistance wires knitted into a desired form.
4. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and second heating zones are concentric circles.
5. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first heating zone is located radially outward of the second heating zone and has a first watt density higher than a second watt density of the second heating zone .
6. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible electric heating element includes a first electric heating element forming the first heating zone and a second electric heating element forming the second heating zone.
7. The heater assembly according to claim 6, wherein the first electric heating element is connected in series with the second electric heating element.

8. The heater assembly according to claim 6, wherein the first and second electric heating elements have different resistance per unit length.

9. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible electric heating element forms a third heating zone with a different watt density than the first and second heating zones.

10. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible electric heating element forms a fourth heating zone with a different watt density than the first, second, and third heating zones.

11. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and second layers comprise silicone rubber.

12. The heater assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an insulation layer positioned adjacent the second layer to reduce heat passing through the second layer.

13. The heater assembly according to claim 12, wherein the insulation layer is secured to an outer surface of the second layer.

14. The heater assembly according to claim 12, wherein the insulation layer is secured to an outer surface of the second layer with a removable fastener.

15. The heater assembly according to claim 12, wherein the insulation layer comprise silicone rubber.

16. The heater assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a vacuum seal member secured to a bottom surface of the first layer and at least one vacuum port extending through the first layer.

17. A heater assembly comprising, in combination:
first and second flexible layers;
a plurality of flexible electrical resistance heating elements connected in series and positioned between the first and second flexible layers; and
wherein the plurality heating elements form a plurality of heating zones having different watt densities so that heat is non-uniformly produced by the heating zones.

18. A heater assembly comprising, in combination:
first and second flexible layers;
first, second, third, and fourth flexible electrical resistance heating elements connected in series and positioned between the first and second flexible layers; and
wherein the first, second, third and fourth heating elements form a plurality of heating zones having different watt densities so that heat is non-uniformly produced by the heating zones.

19. The heater assembly according to claim 18, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth heating zones are concentric circles.

20. The heater assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first heating zone is located radially outward of the second heating zone, the second heating zone is located radially outward of the third heating zone, and the first heating zone has a watt density higher than the fourth heating zone.